

THE fate of Asia hinges on a document that owes its existence to a little child.

gotiation in the History of Nations.

Li Hvng

When Russia and Japan flew each at the other's throat it was because of conditions arising from the treaty by which China gave the Czar a basis of operation at Port Arthur and Talien-

Every season the charming young social leader of the Diplomatic Corps at Washington arouses the envy of society with a wonderful new ball gown of priceless silk, into the delicate fabric of which is woven the royal dragon

And whenever the Countess de Cassini dons one of these gowns she thinks of the imperial donor and the day she acted as translator for Li Hung Chang and arranged the treaty which gave Russia her seaport in Manchuria.

ORT ARTHUR, the great stronghold of Russian power, which was a menace to the integrity of China until Japan flung her challenge into Russia's face and made the port a prison for the Czar's fleet, is on Chinese soil and under the sovereignty of the mid-

dle kingdom Technically, Russia is only a tenant under lease, but she meant to make her lease perpetual, regardless of China's rights or wishes

When the treaty of Port Arthur was made, Russia was very friendly to China. The lion and the lamb foregathered amiably, and a little child led them. It is a fact, recorded upon the imperial books of China by order of the Emperor, that the Port Arthur treaty

and, except a single other member of the legation staff, she was the only one of the Minister's household who could speak both languages.

Pierre Rogestvensky, secretary of legation, also understood Chinese, and was depended upon to act as interpreter for Count Cassini and Li Hung Chang in the treaty negotiations. For weeks the Russians waited in their Summer retreat, but no intimation of an intention to bring matters to a speedy conclusion came from the Chinese Court, and one day the secretary left the villa for a trip to Pekin on leave of absence.

Rogestvensky had been gone but a few hours when Li Hung Chang, resplendent in yellow jacket, peacock plume and other insignia of honor, and attended by a gorgeous retinue of Chinese statesmen, arrived at the legation in state and was received with elaborate courtesy by the Russian Minister. Li Hung Chang spoke no Russian, and the Count's assurances of distinguished consideration, conveyed in French, were only partly intelligible to him. Each knew that the other was saying the proper complimentary things, of course, and the mere formalities of reception were gotten through with just as satis- Russian. The Count's face, too, was il- in his replies, and from the end of the factorily, no doubt, as if they could lumined. have understood each other.

who could not easily be recalled, that and translate to him, word for word, world's history, and assuredly never governor general, and the troops of the was as far as they could go, and evi-exactly what the great Chinaman since that Port Arthur treaty was ac-middle kingdom of China cannot ento talk business about the long-delayed Li Hung Chang for a moment sat in Down to the smallest detail the treaty dently the Chinese statesman had come should say.

treaty. The two grave statesmen salaamed picking and choosing his words, simpli- a grave handshake the two statesmen ofher means are necessary" to defend timate that with the best intentions in the world, they could proceed no further. The situation was not only socially awkward, but politically critical.

Count Cassini had received Li Hung

fying all the high sounding legal and technical language down to the elemental world glanguage down to the elemental words capable of being absolute-fair, immediately upon the return of this Ambassador to Pekin, his astenishment and delight knew no bounds.

When the Emperor learned of the afterior in the treaty.

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Russia undertook to leave an uninhabited zone north of the leased land, to be controlled by Chinese troops. until they were tired, smiled until their fying all the high sounding legal and parted.

Something surely out of the ordinary

must be thought of. The next morning while the dews and mists yet lay heavy upon the valleys, there traveled over the mountain road a caravan of brown skinned men bending beneath heavy burdens. This cargo finally deposited at the Russian Legation, proved to be a wealth of carved furniture and cavernous chests heaped high with bolt after bolt of silken stuffs of all descriptions and golden embroideries, in which the royal dragon of the Empire lashed and wound itself about

in labyrinthian coils and darts. And all for the little happy-hearted maid in the white frock, who, unconscious of what she Lad done, was again chasing butterflies and plucking flowers within the high-walled garden of

the legation villa. Each year since that time the young Countess has had one of her ball gowns fashioned in Paris from a bolt of the Emperor's gift of shimmering white silken stuffs. And each year there has been no end of gowns made from the contents of those fragrant sandalwood chests which the brown-skinned servants of the Emperor bore over the mountains to her in recognition of the fact that she, as the translator, had conducted the treaty of Port Arthur.

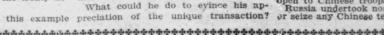
*********** PORT ARTHUR TREATY *******

NDER the treaty which little Miss Cassini helped to negotiate Russia holds a twerty-five-year lease of Port Arthur and Tallen and their adja-

umined. room the gorgeously apparelled states- These ports may serve as military. The three gathered about a table, and men looked spellbound at the scene, and naval bases for Russia, but the offi-But in the absence of Rogestvensky, he instructed her to listen attentively which probably never before in the cial in charge may not be known as

> camp on the leased territory. Russia undertook to construct forts deep thought, and then slowly, carefully was then and there conducted, and with and barracks and adopt "whatever

the points.



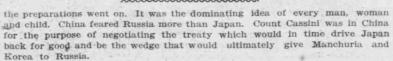
complished, has been paralleled.



APAN, smarting under the knowledge that it was Russia who took away from her the victor's spoils at the close of the Chinese war, began immediately to prepare for battle with the Czar.

One of the purposes of the Japo-Chinese war had been to secure for Japan a foothold in Korea and an outlet for her ever-increasing population. This was necessary to the progress of the island Empire: The intention of Russia in taking Port Arthur by the treaty negotiated through Little Countess Cassini was to drive Japan back to the islands and shut out hope of her ever get-

ting a foothold on the mai land. Japan began feverishly and quietly to get ready for war. For eight years



On the pretext of keeping the peace during the Boxer outbreak Russia flooded Manchuria with troops and then refused to take them away. even threatened Korea. Then Japan was ready to strike, and, after negotiations that were hopeless from the start, the blow fell at Port Arthur on the night of February 8, 1904. Instantly Japan threw an army corps into



Pierre Rogestvensky who was to have

acted as interpreter for treaty of Port Arthur

Korea and the Emperor of the Hermit Kingdom made a defensive and offen-

sive treaty with the intruders. Since then Russia's sea power in the East has been broken, and Russian troops who had invaded Korea have been swept back across the Yalu, Russian troops have slowly fallen back to entice Japan away from the seaboard into the interior, where great land battles would decide the outcome of the war, with better chances for Russia. The first moves in the war game certainly have

been in favor of the little men from the land of Nippon. As yet, no other Power has been dragged in, but all Europe is holding its